

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEAE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 OMB-01 EB-11 OPR-02 SY-10 M-03

A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 IO-12 EUR-25 AF-10 SCA-01 SCS-03

RSR-01 /153 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACI IMMEDIATE 1924

DIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN NIACI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS NIACI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM NIACI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV NIACI IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS LE

SUBJECT: INTERNAL SECURITY - SITREP 2

ATHENS FOR AMB BUFFUM

REF: BEIRUT 4999

1. SITUATION AS OF 1400 Z BETWEEN LEBANESE ARMY AND FEDAYEEN REMAINS CONFUSED. ALL REFUGEE CAMPS IN BEIRUT HAVE BEEN SURROUNDED BY ARMY UNITS AND INTENSITY OF FIRING VARIES. ALMOST NO SHOOTING AT THIS TIME OUTSIDE CAMP AREAS. ARMY HAS USED TANK FIRE AGAINST CAMPS, IN SOME OF WHICH BUILDINGS ARE BURNING.

2. ARMY CASUALTIES REPORTED AS 6 KIA ABOUT 12 WOUNDED.

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FEDAYEEN CASUALTIES MUCH HEAVIER, NUMBERS UNKNOWN. ARMY ASSURES US THAT, AS ANNOUNCED ITS COMMUNIQUE OF 1140 Z, FEDAYEEN OPENED FIRE ON ARMY UNITS AFTER ARMY DEMANDED RELEASE OF 2 NCO'S HELD BY PDFLP.

3. REPORTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED THAT ARMY FUEL STATION ADJACENT TO GOLF CLUB OF LEBANON AND MAIN POST OFFICE NEAR CITE SPORTIVE WERE SET AFIRE.

4. SITUATION OUTSIDE OF BEIRUT REPORTED QUIET ALTHOUGH ARMY PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO CAMPS WHERE FEDAYEEN ARE, NATURALLY, NERVOUS.

5. ARMY UNCERTAIN AS TO WHY FEDAYEEN INITIATED ATTACK RESERVATIONS AFTER). PESHCHERSKY ALSO SAID THAT JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS DRAFTED IN MOSCOW BEFORE TRIP BY SOVIETS AND WAS ACCEPTED READILY BY ROMANIANS WITHOUT CHANGE (SINCE COMMUNIQUE IS INNOCUOUS DOCUMENT, THIS WOULD MERELY DEMONSTRATE KEEN SOVIET AWARENESS OF WHAT ROMANIANS WOULD ACCEPT).

3. ON ARMS DELIVERIES, PESHCHERSKY HAD SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT LINE THAN THAT EXPRESSED BY ROMANIANS IN REFTEL. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS, HE SAID THAT GRECHKO HAD AGREED TO GIVE ROMANIANS SIGNIFICANTLY MORE ARMS BUT " NOT ALL THAT THEY WANTED." ASKED WHAT WAS INVOLVED, PESHCHERSKY SAID DISCUSSIONS CONCERNED " HEAVY EQUIPMENT" BUT REFUSED TO ELABORATE, SAYING THAT DETAILS HAD TO BE WORKED OUT LATER. ASKED ABOUT METHOD AND TERMS OF PAYMENT, PESHCHERSKY SAID REPAYMENT WOULD BE IN " GOODS" BUT AGAIN WOULD GO NO FURTHER. SUBJECT OF MANEUVERS DID NOT ARISE ALTHOUGH, IN EARLIER CONVERSATION, SOVIET CHARGE TIKUNOV TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT NOTHING NEW WAS DECIDED IN THIS FIELD.

4. COMMENT: SOVIETS ARE CLEARLY ATTEMPTING TO SURROUND GRECHKO VISIT WITH AURA OF SUCCESS, PERHAPS TO DEGREE OF " PROTESTING TOO MUCH," WHILE ROMANIANS ARE SHOWING KEEN INTEREST IN DEMONSTRATING TO US THAT VISIT RESULTED IN NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN SITUATION. SINCE BOTH PARTIES HAVE VESTED INTEREST IN PURVEYING THEIR RESPECTIVE LINES, CERTAIN CAUTIONARY NOTE IS NECESSARY IN BOTH CASES. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE ROMANIAN CLAIM AS EXPRESSED IN REFERENCE MESSAGE IS CLOSER TO TRUTH AND THAT GOR ATTITUDES TOWARD MILITARY COOPERATION REMAIN UNCHANGED.

5. ARMS DISCUSSIONS MAY BE SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN SINCE GOR PROBABLY DOES SEEK ADDITIONAL MODERN SOVIET EQUIPMENT IN

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AREAS WHERE IT HAS NO CAPABILITY OF ITS OWN. COLONEL POPA'S STATEMENT (PARA 15 B OF REFERENCE) THAT NO NEW ARMS AGREE-

MENTS WERE DISCUSSED MAY BE LITERALLY TRUE WITHOUT NEGATING IDEA THAT GOR PROCUREMENT OF ADDITIONAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT IS TOPIC OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST TO BOTH SIDES WITH GOR SEEKING TO UPGRADE ITS EQUIPMENT, ESPECIALLY " HEAVY" VARIETIES WHILE SOVIETS SEEK TO PALM OFF OBSOLESCENT MODELS WHILE SEEKING TO APPEAR COOPERATIVE.

MEEKER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BEIRUT05021
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730533/aaaahkeg.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 BEIRUT 4999
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <13-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971117
Subject: INTERNAL SECURITY -
TAGS: PINS, LE
To: NEA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005